

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3826

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2476

EXDIS

ARA FOR SHLAUDEMAM AND LEURS

ARA/CAR FOR HEAVENER AND BLACKEN

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GY

SUBJECT: US-GOG RELATIONS

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 2384, (B) GEORGETOWN 2465

1. WHILE I CANNOT PREDICT TEXT OF PRIME MINISTER'S
DECEMBER 14 SPEECH, INDICATIONS RECEIVED BY EMBASSY
OFFICERS ARE THAT BURNHAM WILL
NOT ATTACK ANY COUNTRY BY NAME AND WILL DEAL RATHER MORE
HARSHLY WITH GUYANESE COMPLICITY IN DESTABILIZATION, I.E.,
THE BREAD AND MILK FAMINE REUTERS-CANA STORY REPORTED
REF B AND, OF COURSE, ADDRESS HIMSELF TO THE PARLOUS
STATE OF THE GUYANESE ECONOMY.

2. AS YOU CAN GATHER FROM THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR
REPORTING, PEOPLE IN AND OUT OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE
CONCERNED AND EVEN FRIGHTENED OVER WHAT THE NEXT
SIX MONTHS WILL PORTEND. WILD RUMORS ABOUND AND
IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO
SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION. HOWEVER, I AM MOSTLY
CONCERNED AS I MENTIONED IN REF A ABOUT THE CURRENT
DRIFT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GUYANESE. I

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RECOGNIZE THAT SINCE THE PAST TWO MONTHS EVEN AT

THE BEST OF TIMES WE ARE BEING INDIRECTLY ACCUSED OF DESTABILIZING THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS SUPPORTING FORCES WHO ARE WAGING WAR AGAINST GUYANA. STILL, GIVEN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, I BELIEVE IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT JOHN BLACKEN RETURN BEFORE THE 14TH. THIS WOULD GIVE BLACKEN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE BURNHAM PRIOR TO SPEECH AND GIVE HIM LATEST USG THINKING ON STATUS OF OUR RELATIONS.

3. AS I MENTIONED IN REF A, AT THIS POINT JOHN IS THE ONLY AMERICAN OFFICER WHO HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXERT WHATEVER INFLUENCE AND LEVERAGE THE U.S. HAS WITH THE GOG. HE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY THAT I DO NOT HAVE SUCH AS DIRECT ACCESS TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL GOG OFFICIALS WHO MOSTLY INFLUENCE THE PRIME MINISTER'S THINKING, EVEN THOUGH AT TIMES IT MAY BE MINIMAL. I CAN, OF COURSE, SEE THESE PEOPLE ON SOCIAL OCCASIONS AND I DO, AS YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED, HAVE FAIRLY FREQUENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. BUT THAT IS NOT THE SAME THING AS SITTING DOWN AND BEING ABLE TO PRESENT OUR POSITION IN FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS. SUCH EXCHANGES WILL GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE PM'S THINKING ON GOG THRUSTS AS THEY AFFECT USG INTERESTS.

4. I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE WITH MY LIMITED EXPERIENCE IN GUYANA THAT EVENTUALLY THE GOG IS GOING TO COME TO ITS SENSES AND REALIZE THEY NEED US A LOT MORE THAN WE NEED THEM. THIS WAS NEVER MORE TRUE THAN NOW WHEN THE GUYANESE FIND THEMSELVES IN A DESPERATE NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. WHILE THEY MAY BE TOO PROUD TO ASK US DIRECTLY FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE AND RECOGNIZE THAT EVEN WITH THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION IT WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE FORTHCOMING, STILL WE COULD USE OUR GOOD OFFICES IN SUPPORTING GUYANESE REQUESTS TO THIRD

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PARTIES. IT JUST SEEMS TO ME THAT IF BLACKEN DOES NOT RETURN WE WILL MISS AN OPPORTUNITY WHEN EVEN OUR MINIMAL LEVERAGE WOULD HAVE THE MOST EFFECT. I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS MAY CHANGE NOTHING IN GOG THINKING, BUT I DO BELIEVE IT IS WORTH THE EFFORT.
MCCOY

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